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Q-C communities may become 'Great Places'

Davenport, Bettendorf, Clinton and Muscatine, Iowa, are among 145 places in the state that have sent invitations to partner with the state to become "Great Places" through the Iowa Great Places initiative.

About 75 coaches from state government are being dispatched in teams to all the places that submitted invitations to help the towns move their Great Place visions forward.

Local invitations were sent from Clinton, Davenport, Muscatine, Louisa County, The Bettendorf Mansion in Bettendorf and Limestone Bluffs in Cedar, Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque, Jackson and Jones counties.

"The number — and the quality — of the invitations we received show the tremendous enthusiasm for Great Places," said Anita Walker, department of cultural affairs director. "Iowans clearly accepted the challenge to think about what was genuine and authentic about their places and dream about what it would take to make them great places."

Gov. Tom Vilsack announced the Great Places initiative in his 2005 Condition of the State address, where he challenged state agencies and Iowans to be bold and creative and develop new partnerships for turning neighborhoods, communities, districts, regions and other areas into great places where people want to live, work, stay and play. A team representing 18 state agencies designed a Great Places process, which began in May with 10 forums throughout the state.